Tickenham Church of England Primary School

Collective Worship Policy

Who is responsible?	RE Coordinator / Headteacher
Review timescale	2 Years
Last review	March 2022
Approved by Local Governance Committee	January 2025
Headteacher	Liz Lester
Next review	January 2027

Rationale

At Tickenham Church of England Primary School we are passionate in ensuring that every child is enabled to do the very best that they can, and more. Our distinct Christian ethos is at the heart of all we do; it shines through in everything we do and aspire to be. We have a strong team of committed staff. We are committed to our vision;

Learning for today, inspiring for tomorrow

Our Christian character is based upon the message in the book of Corinthians.

"Three things will last forever - faith, hope and love - and the greatest of these is love."

1 Corinthians 13 (New Living Translation)

We believe that everything we do within our school and for our wider community comes from love. Love for others, love for ourselves, love for God and love for the world which God created and everything in it.

Our Christian values underpin everything we do:

Happiness	*Friendship*	*Hope*	*Compassion*	*Honesty*	*Koinonia*
Forgiveness	*Thankfulness*	*Trust*	*Kindness*	*Empathy*	*Respect*

Collective Worship and the Law

Tickenham Church of England school fulfils the two legal requirements for Collective Worship for Church schools:-

- At Tickenham Church of England Primary School we ensure that every child in the school has an opportunity for daily worship.

"The arrangements for the required collective worship may, in respect of each school day, provide for a single act of worship for all pupils or for separate acts of worship for pupils in different age groups or in different school groups."

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

- Collective worship in Tickenham Church of England Primary School is in accordance with the school's trust deed.

"*All acts of worship are in accordance with the school's Trust Deed and reflect the Anglican status of the school. In addition to daily school worship, special celebrations take place in Church.* "

Parents are made aware that this school is a Church school and as such Collective Worship will be based upon the foundations and principles of the Church of England. This is done through school visits and on the school website. The Futura Learning Partnership and Local Governance Committee are aware of their legal responsibilities and are clear of their statutory responsibility to uphold the Christian foundation of the school. This responsibility to uphold the Christian ethos and foundation of the school is also made clear to staff on their appointment.

Aims of Collective Worship

- To encourage children's natural sense of wonder and to develop their qualities of curiosity, celebration, faith and gratitude which form the foundation of the worship of God.
- Contribute to children's spiritual, moral and cultural development.
- Enable children to reflect specifically on Christian values and beliefs.
- Foster a sense of community and unity within the school.
- To offer children an opportunity for the understanding of God in a way that is individual and appropriate for them, and which allows them to be comfortable in worship.

Responsibility for Collective Worship

The Trust Board and Local Governance Committee hold overall responsibility for ensuring that the legal requirements for worship are met in Tickenham Church of England Primary School. At Tickenham Church of England Primary School the Headteacher and RE subject leader alongside our local Rector, are responsible for the planning and preparation of school worship. This provides continuity between the worship in the school and in the parish.

It is made clear to all staff and clergy who lead collective worship that they should do so in a way that ensures that all present can take part with integrity. The Trust Board and the LGC are all responsible for monitoring and evaluating the progress that the school is making, to interface with the Rector, to interface with the Diocese and to attend church school specific training.

The Timing of Collective Worship

Collective Worship takes place in the hall on Monday to Thursday at 10:15am for 15 minutes with the whole school or key stage (when appropriate). On a Friday collective worship is celebratory in nature and is at 2:45pm for 30 minutes. The latter is either led by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Parents and members of the community are invited to attend these.

The 1998 Education Act allows schools, on special occasions, to hold their daily Act of Worship elsewhere than in the school. At Tickenham Church of England Primary School there are four occasions when services are held at Tickenham Parish church; Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the Leavers' service.

Structure of Collective Worship

Not all aspects of the service are collective worship, but are a time of sharing, community and celebration.

1. Call to Worship – ringing of the school bell
2. **Gather** - with the children entering quietly, respectfully and expectantly
3. **Greet** – Good morning everybody and 'May God's love be with you'; Response "And also with you." Three candles are lit by children and the call and response for each candle is:
   God said – Let there be light.
   Jesus said – I am the light of the world.
   The Holy Spirit – Is the light within us.
4. Children or staff leading the Worship will say prayer/s.

5. **Engage** – the theme is introduced and questions are asked and answered. A bible passage may be used to illustrate the theme or a relevant story book or news example
6. **Respond** – reflection, prayer or song
7. **Send** – *Let us go in the light – And bring peace to our world* The pupils leave quietly and respectfully whilst listening to some music and finally the worship candles are extinguished.

Throughout the week, collective worship will be led by different members of staff, the Headteacher or a member of the clergy from St. Quiricus and St. Julietta Church. We invite charities and local organisations into school to lead collective worship depending upon current events.

The Planning of Collective Worship

Members of staff leading the collective worship will plan for the service. Our Christian Values should link to the theme of the collective worship and pupil interaction and participation should be planned for within the service. Singing assemblies will also be planned weekly. On occasion it is recognised that teachers may feel that they need to respond to local or national events.

Evaluation of Collective Worship

Worship is evaluated by those leading the worship, other staff, the pupils for whom the worship is intended or members of the local governance committee. Feedback from any of these groups will help to improve the quality of worship offered to the pupils. Prayer Group meet regularly to discuss, evaluate and plan upcoming Collective Worship.

Monitoring of Collective Worship

The monitoring of the planning and provision of worship is carried out on a regular basis by one of the RE foundation Governors. The foundation governor ensures that the legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality.

Rights of Withdrawal

At Tickenham Church of England Primary School we seek to be an inclusive community however we respect the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship. This school expects that withdrawal will only be made following parental discussion with the Headteacher followed by written confirmation of withdrawal.
The school has a system of suitable supervision for pupils withdrawn from Acts of Collective Worship. However, no additional work is set or followed in this time.

We recognise that in our school teachers, including the headteacher, don't have the right of withdrawal.

Conclusion

Collective Worship at Tickenham Church of England Primary School is a unifying part of school life to which we all contribute and from which we all benefit. This policy should be implemented within the context of our vision, aims and values as a Church of England school.